

From what I understand, of all the undergraduate majors in the 2008 class at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 11.4 percent took jobs in finance. This is the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, our leading engineering school, sending over 10 percent of its graduates to Wall Street.

The stark truth is that during the going years on Wall Street, America's engineering and innovation expertise declined.

And it is not just that engineers have been choosing finance over traditional engineering careers; fewer students having been choosing to study engineering, period.

Back in 1986—not that long ago—engineering and engineering technology students earned close to 10 percent of U.S. bachelor's degrees. Despite attractive starting salaries, often above \$50,000 a year, the percentage today is only about 5 percent.

Only about 121,000 people earned degrees in engineering in 2007, and that includes bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees.

Today's financial crisis has given our young people an opportunity to take a hard look at how they want to spend their lives.

It gives America's political and educational leaders an opportunity to reorder their resources, to open a pipeline to produce students skilled in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, about 80 percent of the new jobs created in the next 10 years will require these critical STEM skills.

While America must remain a leader in finance, it is clear we must also be a world leader in energy, biotech, biomed and many other industries based on science, technology, and mathematical skills.

Here is what we should do right away:

We need to find more and better ways to marry public policy and engineering. Many universities have begun to do this, but we also must act on a national level, with the support and coordination of national policies.

To take one key example, our Nation, and indeed our planet, is facing a potential crisis in the supply and demand for clean energy and water.

How these issues are resolved will define our children's future. These problems require technical solutions, designed by scientists and engineers who also have an understanding of cultures, religions, and policy.

We also need to develop programs that allow students to "make a difference," to tap the idealism our young people are eager to express.

For example, we should create an engineering jobs corps—similar to the Peace Corps or Teach for America—to help channel the young talent emerging from our engineering schools.

The fields of biotech and biomed, energy and environment should attract socially conscious students who want to improve the quality of life for us all.

Prior to graduating, engineering students typically must write a final paper addressing a problem to solve. We should make those papers part of our national dialogue, publish them, and make them available to government and to the business community, with authors' rights kept secure.

Finally, we need to reach out to women and other students who have traditionally been underrepresented in engineering.

The United States cannot maintain its position as a technological leader nor can we solve the problems we face without the perspectives and participation of all members of our society.

We are in a struggle to define our nation's future. We must recruit all of the talent we can find.

We know our competitors in countries like China are throwing their resources into science and engineering. We can do no less.

When I went to college I wanted to be an engineer, in part because 52 years ago the United States was supporting science and engineering on an unprecedented level. America's competitive spirit helped us meet the challenges of those times.

Thousands of technical innovations created new products, new jobs, new industries, and new levels of economic productivity. We can do this again.

The financial crisis—and our recognition of the misplaced priorities and resources that created it—can help lead a cultural shift back to the strong foundations of innovation and know-how that have always been the American way.

The Federal Government can and should lead in supporting the basic scientific, medical and engineering research that will spur discoveries and innovations.

Our entrepreneurs have always been ready to build on those foundations, to create millions of new jobs and shape a bright American future.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and the administration to restore the prestige and leadership of science and engineering in our country.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 1105

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, March 2, at 2 p.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 26, H.R. 1105, the Omnibus appropriations bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS RULES OF PROCEDURE

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, in accordance with rule XXVI.2. of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I submit for publication in the RECORD the rules of procedure for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, as unanimously adopted by the committee on February 26, 2009.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the rules of procedure be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 1.—Subject to the provisions of rule XXVI, paragraph 5, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, regular meetings of the committee shall be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, at 10:00 a.m., in room SD-430, Dirksen Senate Office Building. The chairman may, upon proper notice, call such additional meetings as he may deem necessary.

Rule 2.—The chairman of the committee or of a subcommittee, or if the chairman is not present, the ranking majority member present, shall preside at all meetings. The chairman may designate the ranking minority member to preside at hearings of the committee or subcommittee.

Rule 3.—Meetings of the committee or a subcommittee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public except as otherwise specifically provided in subsections (b) and (d) of rule 26.5 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Rule 4.—(a) Subject to paragraph (b), one-third of the membership of the committee, actually present, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. Any quorum of the committee which is composed of less than a majority of the members of the committee shall include at least one member of the majority and one member of the minority.

(b) A majority of the members of a subcommittee, actually present, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business: provided, no measure or matter shall be ordered reported unless such majority shall include at least one member of the minority who is a member of the subcommittee. If, at any subcommittee meeting, a measure or matter cannot be ordered reported because of the absence of such a minority member, the measure or matter shall lay over for a day. If the presence of a member of the minority is not then obtained, a majority of the members of the subcommittee, actually present, may order such measure or matter reported.

(c) No measure or matter shall be ordered reported from the committee or a subcommittee unless a majority of the committee or subcommittee is physically present.

Rule 5.—With the approval of the chairman of the committee or subcommittee, one member thereof may conduct public hearings other than taking sworn testimony.

Rule 6.—Proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and matters before the committee or a subcommittee if the absent